

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-05

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RLRETKA:BRC
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-----045077 090457Z /15
R 082014Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 116821

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: BMHD ADDICT TREATMENT PROJECT NO. 493-0299

1. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE BMHD ADDICT TREATMENT PROJECT BE EVALUATED THOROUGHLY. THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS OUR FIRST DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES; AND, AS SUCH, WILL COME UNDER QUITE CLOSE SCRUTINY. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT CASE STUDY IN THE PROBLEMS THAT FUTURE PROJECTS OF THIS TYPE MIGHT PRESENT.

2. WE WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER PATIENTS TERMINATE ILLICIT DRUG USE AFTER ENTERING DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT. SINCE THE TREATMENT STRATEGY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS PROJECT IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF HEROIN-DEPENDENT PERSONS TO END THEIR DEPENDENCY THROUGH OUTPATIENT DETOXIFICATION, IT IS REASONABLE TO EVALUATE THE PROJECT IN RELATION TO THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO ACTUALLY CEASE USING HEROIN AFTER ENTERING TREATMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PROAG, HEROIN USE DURING

TREATMENT WILL BE ASSESSED BY MEANS OF PERIODIC ANALYSES OF PATIENT'S URINE SAMPLES. ALTHOUGH URINALYSIS DATA CAN

BE VERY USEFUL IN ASSESSING THE CESSATION OR CONTINUATION OF PATIENT HEROIN USE, THE INTERPRETATION OF SUCH DATA IS BY NO MEANS STRAIGHTFORWARD. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE URINE TEST REVEALS A CERTAIN CONCENTRATION OF HEROIN METABOLITES IN A PATIENT'S URINE ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF TREATMENT, THIS FINDING MAY MEAN THAT THE PATIENT USED A SMALL AMOUNT OF HEROIN DURING THE PREVIOUS 24 HOURS, OR A RELATIVELY LARGER AMOUNT SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER. SINCE OUR EVALUATION OF THESE CONDITIONS MIGHT DIFFER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BE ABLE TO INTERPRET URINE TEST RESULTS AS RELIABLY AS POSSIBLE. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO SEND A NIDA RESEARCHER TO BANGKOK FOR A TWO-WEEK TDY TO REVIEW AVAILABLE TESTING FACILITIES AND PROCEDURES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF URINE TEST DATA IN EVALUATING THIS PROJECT. IF EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THE VISIT PROPOSED ABOVE, PLEASE ADVISE REGARDING AN APPROPRIATE TIMEFRAME.

4. URINE TEST DATA WILL ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FOLLOW-UP STUDIES THAT ARE PART OF THE EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE PROJECT. GIVEN THAT THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS A RELATIVELY NEW AREA OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ITS DESIGN MAY EVENTUALLY NEED TO BE MODIFIED.
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CAREFUL FOLLOW-UP STUDIES WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT GUIDANCE IN MAKING SUCH MODIFICATIONS. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN NOW TO DEVELOP THE DETAILS OF AN OVERALL EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE PROJECT, FOCUSING ON THE DESIGN OF THE FOLLOW-UP STUDIES. IF THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, THE DEPARTMENT COULD ARRANGE FOR A TDY CONSULTANT IN EVALUATION METHODS (INCLUDING THE DESIGN OF FOLLOW-UP STUDIES) TO WORK WITH EMBASSY AND RTG STAFF IN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION PLAN. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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